

Garbage Gazette

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John Cimochofski Leaves Waste Bureau for Position in Outdoor Recreation



John Cimochofski joined the staff of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection back in April 1983 as a Senior Environmental Analyst in the Local Assistance and Program Coordination group. At that time John worked on a variety of projects including: the 1983 draft of the Solid Waste Management Plan; coordination of permit reviews and public hearings for the Regional Resource Recovery Facilities built after the Hartford plant (Lisbon, Preston, Bridgeport, Wallingford and Bristol); participated in the development of Connecticut and EPA's Underground Storage Tank Regulations and other projects as well.



In the late 1980s, the Local Assistance and Program Coordination Unit became the birthplace of the DEP Recycling Program that John joined along with Lois Hager, who was the state's first Recycling Coordinator. John took over management of the \$41 million dollar local and regional recycling grants program. In 1989 he took over financial management for the entire newly formed Waste Management Bureau. When Lois was on sabbatical for a year in Europe John served as Acting Director of Waste Planning and Standards. When Lois returned John was appointed as Assistant Director of Waste Planning and Standards.

Since Lois retired in 2000 and Oswald Inglese moved over to Waste Engineering and Enforcement, John has served as both Acting Director of Waste Planning and Standards and Recycling Coordinator in addition to his regular duties.

John will be leaving the Waste Bureau for the Environmental Conservation Branch of the agency to serve as Interim Planning Director currently focusing on the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. This is a new position within the agency. Those of us, including this editor, who have had both the pleasure and privilege to have worked with John, wish him well in his new position and are grateful that his talents will still be available to this agency.



Household Hazardous Waste Participation Remains Strong in Connecticut



In 2002, over 31,000 residents took part in a household hazardous waste collection in Connecticut. This represents about 3.6 percent of all single-family homes in Connecticut. While this is slightly down from the past two years, it is still indicative of a strong commitment from Connecticut residents to properly dispose of their hazardous waste.

This commitment extends to Connecticut's municipalities as well. Of the 169 municipalities, 155 had access to at least one household hazardous waste

collection. Few, if any, states have a higher percentage of towns that offer household hazardous waste collections.

Manchester had the highest participation rate in the state in 2002 with 11.2% of the single-family homes participating. Ellington and Lyme have maintained the highest average participation rate over the past seven years with 10.6%.

Connecticut residents can look forward to continued thermometer exchanges in 2003. Any resident can drop off a mercury fever thermometer at any participating household hazardous waste collection and receive a free digital replacement. The schedule for the 2003 collection is posted on the DEP website www.dep.state.ct.us.

The Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency recently received their permit to construct a permanent household hazardous waste facility in Essex. The facility is scheduled to open in September. The facility will accept wastes from residents of the towns of Essex, Clinton, Chester, Lyme, Deep River, Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Killingworth and Old Lyme.



NIKE Reuse-a-shoe Project Update

Collections of old athletic shoes are already underway at a number of locations and will continue until **May 30, 2003**. If you are sponsoring a collection, or have items that you want to bring to a collection, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- Athletic shoes only-no other items will be accepted
- The shoes can be any brand
- **No shoes with metal components or cleats** will be accepted.
- It is the responsibility of the groups sponsoring collections to transport the collected shoes to one of the satellite collection points or the final collection point at Willimantic Waste. If you plan to participate please let the closest collection point to you know in advance and let them know when you will be bringing your shoes to their site.
- Shoes can be in boxes or clear bags
- The shoes must be kept dry

To learn more about the program, and for a complete listing of collection locations, visit the NIKE website at www.nikebiz.com/reuseashoe or call Evelyn Golden, Signature Marketing at (860) 658-7172 or Meg Enkler, CT DEP at (860) 424-3238. This program is sponsored by the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition, the NIKE Corporation and the National Recycling Coalition. The shoes collected in this, and collections sponsored by 29 other organizations throughout the U.S., will be made into a material called "NIKE Grind" and used as athletic surfacing in playgrounds, basketball courts and running tracks.

DEP Receives Award



Foodshare, greater Hartford's regional food bank, has chosen the Department of Environmental Protection to receive their 2002 "Hunger's Hope Award". This award is given annually to donors, volunteers and organizations that help make Foodshare's work possible. DEP is being honored for their assistance in establishing an organics recycling program at Foodshare's fresh produce facility located in the Hartford Regional Market. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of this new facility, and the award ceremony will take place during Foodshare's annual meeting on March 27 with Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell as keynote speaker. Congratulations DEP! To learn more about this, and other DEP-sponsored organics recycling projects, visit the CT DEP website at www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/compost/compilots.htm.

